



ALBANY REC SUMMER

NEWSLETTER

**JUNE-
AUGUST
2021**

SUMMER RECAP

As the final days of summer approach, Albany REC wants to thank you for a wonderful summer season! We were able to provide events, summer opportunities, family activities, and more. Our motto is, "We work so others can play." We hope everyone enjoyed these programs and that you have memories to last a lifetime! Here is a recap of everything Albany REC has offered during the summer 2021 season.



FOLLOW US!

To stay up-to-date with Albany REC throughout the year, please follow us on:



Instagram: @recreationatalbany



Twitter: @RECatAlbany



Facebook: RECAlbany



YouTube: Albany REC





PROGRAMS

**SUMMER
2021**



PLAYSTREETS 2021

Albany REC hosted our 2nd annual Playstreets events series this summer. Our Playstreets events were held on Fridays from July 16 through August 13. This year, the events were held at Hoffman, Black Lives Matter, Whitehall, Buckingham, and Madison Parks. Playstreets was special because it allowed us to bring the neighborhoods surrounding the parks together in a safe and fun way. At each Playstreets we had vendors from across the City of Albany providing valuable information and tips. We offered COVID-19 vaccine clinics lead by the Department of Health at three of the five events. Each Playstreets also had games and outdoor activities, arts and crafts, DJ and live music, and of course, food! Did you know you can fish in Buckingham Lake? The Department of Environmental Conservation taught the community how to fish there on August 6. Thank you to all our sponsors and vendors for making Playstreets possible!



ACTIVATE RECREATION SUMMER ACTIVITIES

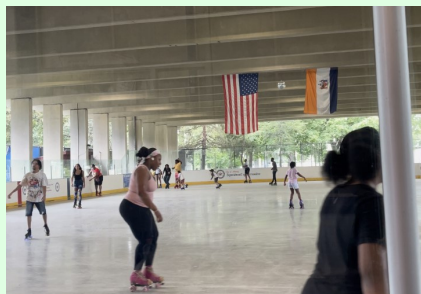
Our Activate Recreation Summer Activities were created to bring summer fun to kids ages 6-13 in Albany. From July 12 to August 19, the summer activities encouraged kids to enjoy playing sports, reading, fishing, and camping! The participants were also able to create dance routines and spoken word poetry for our End-of-the-Summer Celebration on Thursday, August 19. This year our activities were held in Westland Hills, Hoffman, and Swinburne Parks. Thank you to the Department of Environmental Conservation for teaching our kids all about camping!





PROGRAMS

**SUMMER
2021**



SWINBURNE SUMMER SKATING

Summer Skating was an event series over three weeks that Albany REC held at our beloved Swinburne Skating Rink. Each event had a different musical theme. There was a 2000s night which featured 2000s music, Soul Skates that featured music from the '70s and '80s, and lastly, Sing and Skate featuring popular family sing-along songs. The skating events were held between 4-6pm and there were snacks available. A big shout-out to Naava Holder, our Special Events Intern, for putting in the hard work to make these skating events happen!

REC BASKETBALL

This summer, the Albany REC hosted three unique basketball opportunities for youth. Ballin' with the REC Basketball League for boys ages 13-19 was held at Hoffman Park, Washington Park and Madison Park. Thank you to Jamil Hood's House of Hoops and Make A Play for their guidance and coaching! This program met July 13-August 20.

Learn, Educate, and Develop (L.E.A.D) was a basketball league for girls in grades 5-8. Players were mentored by The College of Saint Rose staff, players, and community members through drills, skill-building, and having a passion for the sport. This program met July 13-August 19.

Arbor Hill Sports Complex Developmental League was held on weekdays from 5-9pm for ages 5-16. The program aimed to build skills, teach about basketball, and encourage kids to be the best they could be. This program ran from June 28-August 25, followed by an awards ceremony, at Arbor Hill Sports Complex.





PROGRAMS

**SUMMER
2021**



WILD WORLD OF SPORTS

Our first annual Wild World of Sports recreation sports clinic was an daily program for the community to engage in athletic activity. From July 12 to August 20, Recreation employees traveled to Arbor Hill Sports Complex, Colby Park, Black Lives Matter Park, Krank Park, Hackett Park, and Upper Lincoln Park to play games and lead activities with community members.

NYPUM

The National Youth Program Using Minibikes (NYPUM) was a big success. Albany REC partnered with the Department of General Services, the Albany Police Department, the District Attorney's Office of Community Outreach, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Capital Area for this program. Through the program, youth have the opportunity to learn fundamental skills for riding mini bikes as well as establish and grow relationships with others in the program through mentoring. NYPUM hosted a Minibike Rodeo on August 17-19 with 10 Albany youth participating in the event.



INTRODUCING: PICKLEBALL

You asked and we delivered! This summer, Albany REC installed Pickleball lines on tennis courts at Mater Christi, Hoffman, Washington, Westland Hills, and Arbor Hill Parks. Pickleball is a fun activity for all ages, and it takes only a few minutes to learn. To learn more about Pickleball, use this link: <https://www.pickleball.com/rules-how-to-play-pickleball-s/106.htm> Congratulations to Kevin McLeod and Santino Martinelli on winning the 1st Annual Pickleball Tournament against Commissioner Jones and Deputy Commissioner Atlas at our Staff Appreciation Cookout!



PROGRAMS

SUMMER 2021

ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS

For two sessions, Albany REC hosted a Water Aerobics program for ages 55 and up at the Center for Disability Services. This was the first year of the program. This program ran from July 22 to August 12.

Fit Albany is a program held at Rosemont, Black Lives Matter, and Hoffman Parks aimed to engage adults 18+ to be active and participate in various fitness activities. This program runs until September 3.

Our Golden Games program is geared toward our seniors. As things open up, we want to provide some fun activities that will keep the seniors in the community physically, socially, and cognitively active. They engage fitness and movement, and play card games, backyard BBQ games, and board games. Golden Games is held at Washington Park, and it was also the theme for our Whitehall Park Playstreets on July 30. This program runs until September 3.

Please call (518) 434-5699 if you have any questions about our other adult or senior programs. To sign up for a program before you arrive, please use this link:
www.albanyny.gov/albanyREC

ZUMBA IN THE PARK

All-ages Zumba is taking place on Monday evenings from 6-7pm at Westland Hills Park through September 27. Zumba is a fun way to get your body moving by dancing to energizing music! Please call (518) 434-5699 with any questions. No registration necessary, drop ins welcome.



YOGA!

On Saturday mornings from 9-10am in Washington Park you can find Yoga with Albany REC, taught by Katie Thornton and sponsored by The Washington Park Conservancy. The program runs until September 11. Yoga is located in Washington Park next to the farmer's market (closest to Willet Street).



PROGRAMS

**SUMMER
2021**

TEEN NIGHTS

We hosted three Anti-Violence Teen Night events at Madison Park, partnered with David Graham, Cook Barret, Kelly Kimbrough, the ENOUGH Foundation, the Mayor's Anti-Violence Initiative, Albany Police Department, New York State Police, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Capital Area. There were games, basketball, pizza, and music for teens to enjoy on several summer Saturday nights.



POOLS AND SPRAY PADS

This summer was a rainy one, but on the hot and sunny days, spray pads, Lincoln Park Pool and Mater Christi Pool welcomed swimmers of all ages! Even with a shortage of lifeguards, the pools were able to stay open for a total of approximately 3,000 hours and provide a cool place to spend summer days, as well as host swim lessons at Lincoln.



Lincoln Park Pool is in the public engagement and concept designs phase of the Replacement Project. Design and development are expected to last November 2021 – February 2022, and a final design is anticipated for spring 2022. For more information on the Lincoln Park Pool Replacement Project, please visit www.albanyny.gov/recreation. Thank you to all swimmers and community members who participated in the survey and shared your ideas!

BOXING GYMS

Our Quail Street Boxing Gym and Lincoln Park Fitness Centers are currently open! For youth and adult hours at each location, please visit www.albanyny.gov/albanyrec. A free membership registration is required to use the boxing gym and fitness centers.

